



BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc.

Legal Department

1600 Williams Street
Suite 5200
Columbia, SC 29201

patrick.turner@bellsouth.com

Patrick W. Turner

General Counsel, South Carolina

803 401 2900

Fax 803 254 1731

March 26, 2004

The Honorable Bruce Duke
Executive Director
Public Service Commission of SC
Post Office Drawer 11649
Columbia, South Carolina 29211

Re: Analysis of Continued Availability of Unbundled Local Switching for Mass
Market Customers Pursuant to the Federal Communication Commission's
Triennial Review Order
(Docket No. 2003-326-C)

Continued Availability of Unbundled High Capacity Loops at Certain Locations
and Unbundled High Capacity Transport on Certain Routes Pursuant to the
Federal Communication Commission's Triennial
Review Order
(Docket No. 2003-327-C)

Dear Mr. Duke:

Enclosed for filing are an original and fifteen copies of BellSouth Telecommunications Inc.'s Update of Information Related to its Motion to Hold Proceedings in Abeyance. Since BellSouth filed its Motion:

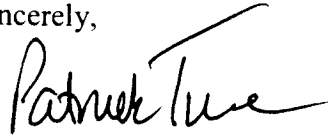
The Alabama and Tennessee State commission have held their *Triennial* proceedings in abeyance, which means that all eight of the other State commission's in BellSouth's region have now held their *Triennial* proceedings in abeyance.

BellSouth announced that it is offering negotiated wholesale agreements to its competitive local exchange carrier ("CLEC") customers that, if accepted, will ensure stable pricing and offer a smooth transition from existing agreements to commercially reasonable and competitive rates. This proposal is described in the Update and its attachments.

The Honorable Bruce Duke
March 26, 2004
Page Two

By copy of this letter I am serving all parties of record with a copy of this pleading as indicated on the attached Certificate of Service.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patrick W. Turner". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending from the end.

Patrick W. Turner

PWT/nml
Enclosures
cc: All Parties of Record
PC Docs # 532844

BEFORE
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF
SOUTH CAROLINA
DOCKET NOS. 2003-326-C AND 2003-327-C

IN RE:

Analysis of Continued Availability of)
Unbundled Local Switching for Mass Market)
Customers Pursuant to the Federal)
Communication Commission's Triennial)
Review Order (Docket No. 2003-326-C))
)
And)
)
Continued Availability of Unbundled High)
Capacity Loops at Certain Locations and)
Unbundled High Capacity Transport on)
Certain Routes Pursuant to the Federal)
Communication Commission's Triennial)
Review Order (Docket No. 2003-327-C))
)

BELLSOUTH TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INC.'S
UPDATE OF INFORMATION RELATED TO ITS
MOTION TO HOLD PROCEEDINGS IN ABEYANCE

In its Motion to Hold Proceedings in Abeyance ("Motion"), BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. ("BellSouth") informed the Public Service Commission of South Carolina ("the Commission") of the status of the *Triennial* proceedings in the other eight states in BellSouth's operating region. BellSouth submits the following as an update to that information:

The Alabama Commission issued a Notice on March 25, 2004 that all proceedings in its *Triennial* proceeding "are hereby suspended and held in abeyance until further notice by the Commission." See Composite Exhibit A, Alabama Notice.

The Florida Commission issued an Order on March 18, 2004 holding its switching proceedings in abeyance indefinitely and finding "no need for parties to file briefs" in that proceeding. See Composite Exhibit A, Florida Order. As indicated in BellSouth's Motion, the Florida Commission already had entered an order staying its transport docket.

The Tennessee Regulatory Authority ("TRA") issued a Notice on March 24, 2004 providing that no witness for any party is required to attend the hearings in its *Triennial* proceedings. Instead, pre-filed testimony and exhibits, discovery, and excerpts of the records of similar proceedings in Florida and Georgia once agreed upon by the Parties will be admitted into the record, subject to the parties' right to make legal objections and engage in cross-examination at a future date. Also, Counsel for the parties will present oral argument of limited duration and respond to questions from the TRA on March 30, 2004. See *Id.*, Tennessee Notice.

As a result of these decisions and the decisions summarized in BellSouth's Motion, the South Carolina Commission is the only Commission in BellSouth's region that has not yet held its *Triennial* proceedings in abeyance.

Additionally, BellSouth recently announced that it is offering negotiated wholesale agreements to its competitive local exchange carrier ("CLEC") customers that, if accepted, will ensure stable pricing and offer a smooth transition from existing agreements to commercially reasonable and competitive rates. This proposal offers BellSouth and CLECs predictable wholesale rates and a 42-month transition with modest price increases over existing UNE-P rates phased in beginning January 1, 2005. It also should allow CLECs to raise additional capital which they can use to either invest in their own facilities or lease additional facilities from BellSouth. Composite Exhibit B is a press release and a Carrier Notification letter from BellSouth's website that address this proposal.

Respectfully submitted, this 26th day of March 2004.

BELLSOUTH TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INC.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Patrick W. Turner", written over a horizontal line.

Patrick W. Turner
1600 Williams Street, Suite 5200
Columbia, South Carolina 29201
(803) 401-2900

R. Douglas Lackey
Meredith E. Mays
Suite 4300
675 W. Peachtree St., NE
Atlanta, GA 30375
(404) 335-0747

ATTORNEYS FOR BELLSOUTH
TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INC.

532840

COMPOSITE EXHIBIT A



JIM SULLIVAN, PRESIDENT

JAN COOK, ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER

GEORGE C. WALLACE, JR., ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER

STATE OF ALABAMA

ALABAMA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

MONTGOMERY

NATURE BAYER™ FAX MEMO 01816

Date	3/25/04	# of pages	1
To	FRANK SEMMES		
From	APSC		
Co./Dept.	Co.		
Phone #	Phone #		
Fax #	Fax #		

**IN RE: Implementation of the Federal
Communications Commission's Triennial Review
Order**

DOCKET 29054

NOTICE OF SUSPENSION OF PROCEEDINGS


In an opinion released on March 2, 2004, in *United States Telecom Association v. FCC*, the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit vacated key provisions of the Federal Communications Commission's ("FCC's") *Triennial Review Order*. Pursuant to notice dated March 10, 2004, the Commission sought comments from the parties to this cause with regard to whether the current procedural schedule in this matter should be suspended and all proceedings held in abeyance in light of the foregoing ruling.

Having considered all the comments submitted, it appears that the most appropriate action at this juncture is to suspend the procedural schedule established in this cause and to hold all proceedings herein in abeyance until there is more clarity regarding the legal status of the FCC's *Triennial Review Order* and the proceedings mandated therein.

IT IS, THEREFORE, RULED, That all proceedings in this Docket are hereby suspended and held in abeyance until further notice by the Commission.

IT IS FURTHER RULED, That this Ruling shall be effective as of the date hereof.

DONE at Montgomery, Alabama this 25th day of March, 2004.


John A. Garner
Administrative Law Judge

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In re: Implementation of requirements arising
from Federal Communications Commission's
triennial UNE review: Local Circuit Switching
for Mass Market Customers.

DOCKET NO. 030851-TP
ORDER NO. PSC-04-0305-PCO-TP
ISSUED: March 18, 2004

ORDER HOLDING DOCKET IN ABEYANCE

I. Case Background

In response to the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) August 21, 2003, Triennial Review Order (TRO), this Commission opened two dockets to ascertain whether a requesting carrier is impaired by lack of access to certain incumbent local exchange companies' network elements.

A hearing was held in this docket and concluded on February 27, 2004. Shortly thereafter, on March 2, 2004, the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals released its decision¹ on the appeal of the TRO, which decision vacated several aspects of the FCC's Triennial Review Order.

Our staff informed me that all parties were contacted by e-mail to discuss how this docket should proceed in light of the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals' decision. In this e-mail, our staff recommended that the proceeding be held in abeyance; however, the parties could not reach agreement. In particular, some parties felt it necessary to file briefs on April 6, 2004, while others did not.

II. Decision

In light of the recent D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals decision, I find it appropriate to hold this docket in abeyance indefinitely until further action is deemed appropriate. Further, I find no need for parties to file briefs on April 6, 2004. Parties will be updated on any new developments affecting this docket by way of an informal status conference call with our staff to be held on April 5, 2004, at 10:00 a.m. The number to take part in this conference call is 850-921-2470.

While the proceedings are being held in abeyance, to the extent that the protective orders apply, parties should continue to treat information in their possession in the manner provided by those orders. However, it should be clear that if information was entered into the record at hearing, and a formal request for confidential treatment has not yet been filed, the owner of that information must still comply with Rule 25-22.006(8), F.A.C., and file a request for confidential

¹ See United States Telecom Association v. Federal Communications Commission, LEXIS 3960 (U.S. App 2004)

DOCUMENT NUMBER-DATE

03657 MAR 18 3

FPSC-COMMISSION CLERK

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DOCKET NO. 030851-TP
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treatment within 21 days of the conclusion of the hearing to maintain confidential treatment. Furthermore, to the extent this case continues in abeyance beyond the 18-month confidentiality period provided in the Orders Granting Confidential Classification, requests for extension of that period will still need to be sought prior to the expiration of the 18-month period.

It is therefore,

ORDERED by Commissioner Charles M. Davidson, as Prehearing Officer, that this docket shall be held in abeyance indefinitely until further action is deemed appropriate. It is further

ORDERED that in the event this case continues in abeyance beyond the 18-month confidentiality period provided in the Orders Granting Confidential Classification, requests for extension of that period will still need to be sought prior to the expiration of the 18-month period.

By ORDER of Commissioner Charles M. Davidson, as Prehearing Officer, this 18th day of March, 2004.



CHARLES M. DAVIDSON
Commissioner and Prehearing Officer

(SEAL)

JLS

NOTICE OF FURTHER PROCEEDINGS OR JUDICIAL REVIEW

The Florida Public Service Commission is required by Section 120.569(1), Florida Statutes, to notify parties of any administrative hearing or judicial review of Commission orders that is available under Sections 120.57 or 120.68, Florida Statutes, as well as the procedures and

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time limits that apply. This notice should not be construed to mean all requests for an administrative hearing or judicial review will be granted or result in the relief sought.

Mediation may be available on a case-by-case basis. If mediation is conducted, it does not affect a substantially interested person's right to a hearing.

Any party adversely affected by this order, which is preliminary, procedural or intermediate in nature, may request: (1) reconsideration within 10 days pursuant to Rule 25-22.0376, Florida Administrative Code; or (2) judicial review by the Florida Supreme Court, in the case of an electric, gas or telephone utility, or the First District Court of Appeal, in the case of a water or wastewater utility. A motion for reconsideration shall be filed with the Director, Division of the Commission Clerk and Administrative Services, in the form prescribed by Rule 25-22.060, Florida Administrative Code. Judicial review of a preliminary, procedural or intermediate ruling or order is available if review of the final action will not provide an adequate remedy. Such review may be requested from the appropriate court, as described above, pursuant to Rule 9.100, Florida Rules of Appellate Procedure.

TENNESSEE REGULATORY AUTHORITY

Deborah Taylor Tate, Chairman
Pat Miller, Director
Sara Kyle, Director
Ron Jones, Director



460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37243-0505

NOTICE OF HEARING

DOCKET: 03-00491 - Implementation of the Federal Communications Commission's Triennial Review Order - 9 Month Proceeding - Switching

03-00526 - Implementation of the Federal Communications Commission's Triennial Review Order - 9 Month Proceeding - Hot Cuts

03-00527 - Implementation of the Federal Communications Commission's Triennial Review Order - 9 Month Proceeding - Loop and Transport

DATE: March 24, 2004

The above-referenced Dockets came before the Directors of the Tennessee Regulatory Authority ("TRA") at the March 22, 2004 Authority Conference as a result of comments submitted by the Parties to these Dockets at the request of the Hearing Officer in TRA Docket No. 03-00491. The comments expressed the views of the Parties regarding the impact of the decision in *United States Telecom Association v. FCC* ("USTA II") issued by the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals on March 2, 2004.

At the Authority Conference, the voting panel for each of these Dockets unanimously decided to suspend indefinitely the remainder of each procedural schedule for hearings and post-hearing briefs and to hold a hearing for the following limited purposes:

1. The Parties will submit into the record of each docket referenced above the pre-filed testimony and exhibits (without a live oath being taken by the witness), discovery, and excerpts of the records of similar proceedings in Florida and Georgia once agreed upon by the Parties, all of which shall be admitted into the record subject to the right of the Parties to make legal objections and to engage in cross examination at a future date established by the TRA. The Parties shall be responsible for identifying the pre-filed testimony and exhibits to be entered into the record. For the purposes of this limited hearing, witnesses need not be present.
2. Counsel for the Parties shall be available to make presentations, limited in duration to no more than two hours per side (e.g., two hours for BellSouth and two hours collectively for the CLECs), with fifteen additional minutes allotted for a presentation by the Consumer Advocate and Protection Division of the Attorney General's Office. Each presentation shall include (1) an overview of the evidence filed in each of the above-referenced Dockets and (2) a discussion of the impact of USTA II on the Triennial Review Order ("TRO"), the TRA's obligations under the TRO, and any other related proceedings before the TRA. Counsel for the Parties shall also be prepared to answer any questions from the Directors concerning this and any other related issue.

The various voting panels initially agreed to schedule this limited hearing for Monday, March 29, 2004. Pursuant to a request of the Parties, this limited hearing will be held on **Tuesday, March 30, 2004, beginning at 9:00 a.m.** in the Hearing Room on the Ground Floor of the TRA at 460 James Robertson Parkway, Nashville, Tennessee.

Participants with disabilities who require special accommodations or alternate communications formats should contact Holly Russ, the Tennessee Regulatory Authority ADA-EEO/AA Coordinator/Office, at 741-2904 ext. 138 or 1-800-342-8359 so that reasonable accommodations can be made.

FOR THE TENNESSEE REGULATORY AUTHORITY:

Deborah Taylor Tate / by permission
JEC

Deborah Taylor Tate
Chairman

cc: Parties of Record
Interested Parties

COMPOSITE EXHIBIT B



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Newsroom

BellSouth Offers Stable Negotiated Wholesale Agreements to CLEC Customers

For Immediate Release
March 23, 2004

Proposal Nullifies Fear of Implications from Court of Appeals UNE-P Ruling

For Immediate Release:

March 23, 2004

ATLANTA -- In its continuing effort to reach commercial agreements, BellSouth (NYSE: BLS) today offered its wholesale customers long-term negotiated agreements for access to the BellSouth network. The proposal is for a net increase of zero for mass market customers the remainder of 2004. The offer, if accepted, will ensure stable pricing and offer a smooth transition from existing agreements to commercially reasonable and competitive rates.

"BellSouth's offer will provide certainty to customers of all local telephone companies in our region and get us, and our competitors, off the unending legal merry-go round," said Margaret Greene, BellSouth president - regulatory and external affairs. "Three times the mandated unbundling rules that govern our current arrangements have been found illegal by federal courts. It is inevitable that the below-cost rates we now charge will go away and that true market-based rates will replace them. What we are offering is in keeping with a call for a transition period which was issued by Federal Communications Commission Chairman Michael Powell."

"Today's proposal offers BellSouth and our Competitive Local Exchange Company customers predictable rates and a 42-month transition with modest increases phased in beginning January 1, 2005," BellSouth President Interconnection Services Keith Cowan said. "The offer bridges our regulatory past with our anticipated free market future."

"This is an excellent offer to our wholesale customers," Cowan said. "It moves the industry to a more rational place by providing

our customers with a stable planning horizon. It also should allow our CLEC customers to raise additional capital which they can use to either invest in their own facilities or lease additional facilities from us."

CLECs that reject BellSouth's proposal potentially face full market-based wholesale rates sometime during the 3-1/2 year proposed contract period, plus business planning uncertainty and an unpredictable outcome from long proceedings before regulators and the courts.

"We are reaching out to companies that now lease our network at government-mandated below-cost rates and asking them to strike a new deal with us," Greene said. "Wholesale customers should negotiate for services and agree on their own terms and conditions without the heavy hand of government."

The BellSouth offer is available until May 1.

The current unbundling regime, which requires BellSouth to provide pieces of its network at prices below what it costs BellSouth to provide them, was ruled unlawful by a federal court on March 2. Under the terms of the court order, those rules are due to expire as early as May 1.

#

For more information contact:

Bill McCloskey, BellSouth
bill.mccloskey@bellsouth.com
(202) 463-4129

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About BellSouth Corporation

BellSouth Corporation is a Fortune 100 communications services company headquartered in Atlanta, Georgia, serving more than 45 million customers in the United States and 14 other countries.

Consistently recognized for customer satisfaction, BellSouth provides a full array of broadband data solutions to large, medium and small businesses. In the residential market, BellSouth offers DSL high-speed Internet access, advanced voice features and other services. BellSouth also offers long distance service throughout its markets, serving both business and residential customers. The company's BellSouth AnswersSM package combines local and long distance service with an array of calling features; wireless data, voice and e-mail services; and high-speed DSL or dial-up Internet service. BellSouth also provides online and directory advertising services through BellSouth[®]

RealPages.comSM and The Real Yellow Pages[®].

BellSouth owns 40 percent of Cingular Wireless, the nation's second largest wireless company, which provides innovative data and voice services.

NOTE: For more information about BellSouth, visit the BellSouth Web page at <http://www.bellsouth.com>.

A list of BellSouth Media Relations Contacts is available in the Corporate Information Center.

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BellSouth Corporation Headquarters
1155 Peachtree St. NE
Atlanta, GA 30309-3610

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BellSouth Interconnection Services

675 West Peachtree Street
Atlanta, Georgia 30375

**Carrier Notification
SN91084043**

Date: March 23, 2004

To: All Competitive Local Exchange Carriers (CLEC)

Subject: CLECs (Product/Service) - Commercial Agreement for BellSouth DS0 Wholesale Local Voice Platform Service

On March 2, 2004, the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia ("Court") issued its opinion (Order) in the appeal of the Federal Communication Commission's (FCC) Triennial Review Order (TRO). The Court vacated and/or remanded significant portions of the TRO. Specifically, the Court vacated the FCC's rules associated with, among other items, mass-market switching, thereby eliminating BellSouth's obligation to provide unbundled switching and, therefore, Unbundled Network Elements-Platform (UNE-P) at TELRIC rates. The Court's Order will become effective May 1, 2004, unless the Court grants a rehearing or issues a stay of the Order.

In light of the Court's Order, BellSouth is prepared to offer switching and DS0 loop/switching combinations (including what is currently known as UNE-P) at commercially reasonable and competitive rates. BellSouth will offer switching via a DS0 Wholesale Local Voice Platform Services commercial agreement. Consistent with the direction provided by FCC Chairman Michael Powell, BellSouth invites your company to enter into good faith negotiations of a market-based commercial agreement aimed at benefiting the end user, establishing stability in the industry and allowing real competition to continue throughout the BellSouth region. Entering into such an agreement will effect an efficient transition from switching under your existing Interconnection Agreement to switching offered on a commercial basis.

Highlights of this offer are as follows:

Availability:

This offer is available until May 1, 2004

Term:

Agreements executed before May 1, 2004, will be effective through December 31, 2007.

Rates:

The Agreement establishes a rate schedule for the DS0 Wholesale Local Voice Platform Services and standalone DS0 switch ports for the entire contract period.

Mass Market (less than 4 DS0 lines per end user):

- \$7 above existing state-ordered TELRIC UNE-P recurring rates*
- Discounts in 2004 result in a zero net increase above TELRIC*
- Transitional discounts in January 2005 through December 2006

* Rates ordered prior to June 24, 2003 in Georgia

Mass Market (cont.):

- Standalone DS0 switch ports at \$7 increase over existing state-ordered TELRIC recurring rates* with no transitional discounts

Enterprise Market (four or more DS0 lines or where a DS1 is serving an end user):

- Provides a \$10 increase over current DS0 state-ordered TELRIC UNE-P recurring rates* and applies to both DS0 Wholesale Local Voice Platform Services and standalone DS0 ports

Significant General Terms:

- Customer may continue to purchase standalone Loops or Resale Services under a BellSouth interconnection agreement and/or tariff.
- Guaranteed service metrics are offered through a service level commitment and are subject to payments by BellSouth to the customer for non-performance
- Prices, excluding discounts, for DS0 Wholesale Local Voice Platform Services will remain constant over the term of the Agreement.
- Damages will apply for non-compliance with the terms of the Agreement.

This offer is available only until May 1, 2004. Again, BellSouth invites you to enter into good faith negotiations of a commercial agreement as soon as possible in order to complete these negotiations by May 1.

To begin the negotiation process or obtain additional information, please contact Valerie Cottingham at 205-321-4970.

Sincerely,

Original signed by Jerry Hendrix

Jerry Hendrix – Assistant Vice President
BellSouth Interconnection Services

* Rates ordered prior to June 24, 2003 in Georgia

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
) CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE
COUNTY OF RICHLAND)

The undersigned, Nyla M. Laney, hereby certifies that she is employed by the Legal Department for BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. ("BellSouth") and that she has caused BellSouth Telecommunications Inc.'s Update of Information Related to its Motion to *Triennial* Proceedings in Alabama, Florida, and Tennessee in Docket Nos. 2003-326-C and 2003-327-C to be served upon the following this March 26, 2004:

F. David Butler, Esquire
General Counsel
S. C. Public Service Commission
Post Office Box 11649
Columbia, South Carolina 29211
(PSC Staff)
(Electronic Mail)

Rowland L. Curry
Principal
Curry and Associates
1509 Mearns Meadow Blvd.
Austin, Texas 78758
(Electronic Mail)

Robert Loube
Director
Economic Research
Rhoads and Sinon, LLC
10601 Cavalier Drive
Silver Spring, MD 20901
(Electronic Mail)

Elliott F. Elam, Jr., Esquire
S. C. Department of Consumer Affairs
3600 Forest Drive, 3rd Floor
Post Office Box 5757
Columbia, South Carolina 29250-5757
(Consumer Advocate)
(Electronic Mail)

John J. Pringle, Jr., Esquire
Ellis Lawhorne & Sims, P.A.
1501 Main Street, 5th Floor
Columbia, South Carolina 29201
(AT&T Communications of the Southern States, LLC)
(NuVox Communications, Inc.)
(Xspedius)
(NewSouth Communications, Corp.)
(Electronic Mail)

Robert E. Tyson, Jr., Esquire
Sowell Gray Stepp & Laffitte
1310 Gadsden Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29211
(Competitive Carriers of the South, Inc.)
(ITC^DeltaCom Communications, Inc.)
(Electronic Mail)

Nanette S. Edwards, Esquire
ITC^DeltaCom Communications, Inc.
4092 S. Memorial Parkway
Huntsville, Alabama 35802
(Electronic Mail)

Darra W. Cothran, Esquire
Woodward, Cothran & Herndon
1200 Main Street, 6th Floor
Post Office Box 12399
Columbia, South Carolina 29211
(MCI WorldCom Communications, Inc.)
(Intermedia Communications, Inc.)
(MCImetro Access Transmission Services, LLC)
(Electronic Mail)

Kennard B. Woods, Esquire
MCI
Law and Public Policy
6 Concourse Parkway, Suite 600
Atlanta, Georgia 30328
(Electronic Mail)

M. John Bowen, Jr., Esquire
Margaret M. Fox, Esquire
McNair Law Firm, P.A.
Post Office Box 11390
Columbia, South Carolina 29211
(SCTC)
(Electronic Mail)

Scott Elliott, Esquire
ELLIOTT & ELLIOTT, P.A.
721 Olive Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29205
(United Telephone Company of the Carolinas and
Sprint Communications Company, L.P.)
(Electronic Mail)

H. Edwards Phillips, III, Esquire
Legal Department Mailstop: NCWKFR0313
14111 Capital Boulevard
Wake Forest, North Carolina 27587-5900
(United Telephone Company of the Carolinas and
Sprint Communications Company, L.P.)
(Electronic Mail)

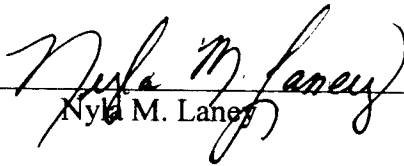
Marty Bocock, Esquire
Director of Regulatory Affairs
1122 Lady Street
Suite 1050
Columbia, South Carolina 29201
(Electronic Mail)

Mr. Rohan Ranaraja
Manager-State Governmental Affairs
Alltel Telecommunications, Inc.
1 Allied Drive
Little Rock, Arkansas 72202
(Electronic Mail)

Allen G. Buckalew
J. W. Wilson & Associates
1601 North Kent Street
Suite 1104
Arlington, VA 22209
(Electronic Mail)

Ms. Melanie M. Lloyd
7501 Callbraam Lane
Austin, TX 78736
(PSC Consultant)
(Electronic Mail)

Ms. Lisa Sapper
Docket Manager - AT&T
1121 Chapel Hill Road
Madison, WI 53711
(Electronic Mail)



Nyla M. Lane